

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and
Activities Ending on February 9, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Response Actions (Mercury Spills),Twin Cities
(Minneapolis/St. Paul), Minnesota**

On February 7, 2007, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requested assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on three residential mercury spills in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. U.S. EPA's Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractor (Weston Solutions) conducted response actions on all three affected homes that same day. On February 8, 2007, a fourth residential mercury spill occurred, with U.S. EPA's START contractor providing monitoring assistance to MPCA. Cleanup activities on all residential sites were completed by the end of February 8th.

Contact: Sonia Vega (651-296-7361)

Emergency Response, Burtchville Mercury Site, Burtchville, Michigan

On January 31, 2007, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) requested assistance from U.S. EPA's Gross Ille emergency response office in responding to a residential mercury spill near Port Huron, Michigan. MDCH's earlier response at the home discovered mercury vapor levels above the residential screening level. Three young children reside at the home. It is believed that mercury was spilled from a mechanical device brought from the garage into the home. The device was being used as a weight to help secure new flooring being installed. U.S. EPA and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team/Emergency and Rapid Response Services (START/ERRS) contractors mobilized to the site on the morning of February 1, 2007, with cleanup activities commencing thereafter. Cleanup activities included screening various household items and clothing for contamination, and containerization of the mercury-filled device. As a result of the response, 2 55-gallon drums of contaminated items were generated. Post-mercury vapor screening on the morning of February 2, 2007, found concentrations below the recommended residential screening level of 1.0 microgram per cubic meter. Transportation and disposal of the containerized items will be procured by U.S. EPA in the near future.

Contact: Brad Stimple (440-250-1717)

Settlement, Kemps LLC, St. Paul, Minnesota

On February 7, 2007, U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) with Kemps LLC to resolve alleged violations of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103(a) and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 304(a) and (c) reporting requirements. The Complaint alleged that Kemps LLC failed to immediately notify the National Response Center and the Minnesota State Emergency Response Center of a 700-pound ammonia release which occurred from their Rochester, Minnesota, facility on May 9, 2003, and a 1,200-pound ammonia release which occurred at their Farmington, Minnesota, facility on April 13, 2006. In August 2006, U.S. EPA filed a complaint for the violations that occurred at the company's Rochester facility. During negotiations, Kemps LLC requested U.S.

EPA add any additional penalties appropriate for the Farmington release to settle all the violations at one time. The original combined proposed penalty was \$128,231. Based on the Enforcement Response Policy, appropriate reductions brought the penalty down to \$74,414. Kemps LLC agreed to pay a \$50,290 cash payment (\$25,145 to the Superfund and \$25,145 to the U.S. Treasury) and to expend \$41,000 to conduct a Supplemental Environmental Project for a total settlement of \$91,290. The company will install ammonia sensors connected to its refrigeration and alarm system near its ceiling air vents at the Rochester facility. In addition, it will install intermediate pressure relief valves at the Farmington facility to intercept and redirect ammonia back to the refrigeration system before it reaches the emergency release valves and the outside environment.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

Consent Order Signed (RI/FS), Milwaukee Solvay Coke and Gas Site, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On January 26, 2007, an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent was signed for the preparation and performance of a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Milwaukee Solvay Coke & Gas site located at 311 East Greenfield Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A developer is participating in the settlement as a bona fide prospective purchaser and work performing party. The RI/FS will be conducted using the "Superfund Alternative Site" approach.

The site covers approximately 46 acres in a primarily industrial and commercial area north of the Kinnickinnic River and west of the Lincoln Memorial Harbor. The site is comprised of a number of lots, and various industrial activities have occurred on different lots since at least 1900, and probably as early as 1866. A manufactured coke and gas facility located on the northern portion of the site was operated by various entities until approximately 1983.

Contact: Denise Boone (312-886-6217)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**Western Michigan University Environmental Careers Event,
Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, Michigan**

On February 7, 2007, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) James Justice participated in Western Michigan University's Environmental Sciences Career Event as part of a panel of professionals discussing opportunities in the environmental field. The event was attended by representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, and representatives from local governments and businesses. Brief presentations were given by the panel members followed by a group question and answer session. Over 20 students attended to discuss educational backgrounds and career paths of the panelists, opportunities in the environmental field, and lessons learned by the panelists while pursuing a career in the environmental field. The event was well-received and students were grateful for the opportunity for questions and one-on-one discussions with the panelists to discuss specifics on student career goals.

Contact: James Justice (734 692-7687)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
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